

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: WHO, XA

SUBJECT: WHA: RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

REFERENCE: GENEVA 7888

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION WITH
RESPECT TO SUBJECT RESOLUTION IS THAT THE NINE AND OTHER
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WILL JOIN IN A CONSENSUS ON THE RESOLU-
TION. THEY WOULD PREFER THAT THE U.S. ALSO JOIN IN THE
CONSENSUS, ARGUING THAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION THROUGH HARD BARGAINING.
MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE EVENT THAT U.S. INSISTS
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ON A VOTE IN ORDER TO RECORD ITS ABSTENTION, THAT SEVERAL
EC-9 MEMBERS (UK AND FRANCE) WILL ALSO ABSTAIN. HOWEVER,
IN THAT LATTER EVENT, THERE WOULD BE SOME RECRIMINATION
AND CHARGES THAT THE U.S. HAD SPLIT EC-9 UNITY.

2. OUR MAIN PROBLEM WITH THE RESOLUTION IS THE USE OF THE
TERM "AGGRESSION" WHICH IS A TERM OF ART UNDER THE UN

CHARTER WHICH IMPLIES CHAPTER 7 SANCTIONS. OF THE INSTANCES OF AGGRESSION CITED IN PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 2, THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS ONLY USED THAT LABEL OPERATIVELY IN CONNECTION WITH A RHODESIAN RAID ON MOZAMBIQUE. THE U.S.

VOTED FOR THAT RESOLUTION. AS FAR AS OUR RESEARCH INDICATES, THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS NOT USED THE TERM "AGGRESSION" IN AN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE OTHER INSTANCES, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST RECENT RAID INTO ANGOLA.

3. ON THAT BASIS, YOU SHOULD URGE SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION TO USE SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE WORD "AGGRESSION" IN THE PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS AND IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2. ALMOST ANY OTHER PHRASE -- ARMED ATTACK, INVASION, OR VIOLENCE -- WOULD DO THE TRICK.

4. IN THE EVENT THESE CHANGES ARE MADE, YOU CAN ASSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH A CONSENSUS. SHOULD THESE CHANGES NOT BE MADE, BUT SHOULD YOU FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF TOTAL ISOLATION OR THE CHARGE THAT THE U.S. HAS ACTED TO SPLIT EC-9 UNITY, YOU SHOULD PERMIT ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION BY CONSENSUS, MAKING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND URGING OTHER LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE COMPARABLE STATEMENTS:

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THE UNITED STATES HAS NO WISH TO CHALLENGE THE ACTION OF THIS ASSEMBLY ON THE PRIMARY GOAL OF PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THAT GOAL. CONSEQUENTLY, WE FOUND IT POSSIBLE NOT TO INSIST UPON A VOTE SO THAT WE COULD ABSTAIN DESPITE SOME STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE UNNEEDED POLITICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS CONTAINED IN THE RESOLUTION. THE U.S. MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CAUSE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION IS NOT ADVANCED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL STATEMENTS AND JUDGMENTS SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS RESOLUTION. SUCH JUDGMENTS ARE PROPERLY THE CONCERN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH HAS ACTED AND WILL ACT TO IDENTIFY AND DEAL WITH AGGRESSION. IT IS THE HOPE OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT THE WORK OF THIS ASSEMBLY IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE DISTRACTED FROM ITS MAIN PROBLEM OF DELIVERING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE BY JUDGMENTS WHICH ARE EXTRANEIOUS TO THEIR MEDICAL NEEDS. CHRISTOPHER

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